



TIP OF THE SPEAR

LAST U.S. FORCES LEAVE NIMROZ PROVINCE



The Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers of 4th Brigade, 215th Corps have been trained and advised by a rotational team of Marines and Sailors known as Security Force Assistance Advisor Team (SFAAT) 4-215, and are now able to stand on their own. The SFAAT has been steadily advising and supporting the ANA in areas of intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, and casualty evacuation support. While living next to their counterparts for the past year, the SFAAT gave the ANA many fundamental courses, building strong relationships and understanding with one another as well as a sturdy foundation on which the 4th

Brigade can continue to grow. As they prepared to leave, the Marines looked back on their time in Nimroz province, assured that their counterparts have grown considerably and will continue to do so. "I'm extremely confident the ANA will continue to persevere," said Lt.Col. Thomas Zeigler, the team leader of SFAAT 4-215. "They clearly overmatch the enemy, and are capable of providing effective security wherever they are. They plan and conduct security operations with other ANSF pillars, sustain themselves, and support (the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan) by protecting the people." [Read more](#)

Also Read: Combat Logistics Battalion 7 returns Marines, Sailors, equipment to Camp Leatherneck



PHOTO OF THE WEEK



The Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon marches in front of the Thomas Jefferson Memorial on their way to perform for the Cherry Blossom Festival in Washington April 12. The Silent Drill Platoon travels across the country and the world showcasing close-order drill and the precision for which the Marine Corps is known. *(Photo by Sgt. Bryan Nygaard)*



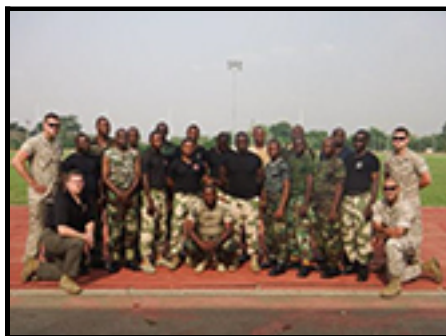
IN THE NEWS

MARINES, AUSTRALIANS TRAIN TOGETHER IN THE TOP END



Marines with Marine Rotational Force -- Darwin, performed a range designed to give them a chance to work with Australian Soldiers April 15. "This is our first training event while here in Darwin, so it's giving our guys a chance to adjust to the environment," said Capt. Aaron Quintanar. "We will be shooting both at day and night to make sure our weapons are zeroed in." Aside from zeroing in their weapons, the Marines showed members of the Australian Army their weapon systems, giving some of the Marines and Soldiers on both sides their first chance of this rotation to work together. [Read more](#)

U.S. MARINES, SAILORS TO CONDUCT TRAINING IN NIGERIA



Approximately 20 Marines and Sailors from Special-Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force Africa 14 are traveling to Nigeria to conduct a theater security cooperation mission designed to improve the military capacity of our African partners and better enable them to prevent conflict and increase regional security. The American service members will train and advise the Nigerian Army in its upcoming mission. The training will consist of maritime security, small craft operations, combat lifesaving skills, patrolling techniques with boats and orders and mission planning. [Read more](#)

GAINS IN PLAN TO MOVE MARINES TO GUAM



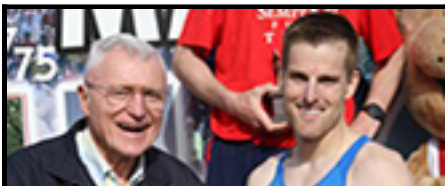
A draft environmental impact statement was released April 18, which officials called a "significant milestone" in the long-range plan to shift 5,000 Marines from Okinawa to Guam. A key feature of the statement was eliminating a previous proposal that would have put firing ranges for the Marines in an area where they could have intruded upon Guamanian ancestral lands and archeological sites. The firing ranges would now be placed within the confines of Andersen Air Force Base. "The administration is pleased," said Mark Calvo, director of the Government of Guam Military Buildup Office. "Our concerns were heard, and they're adapting. This is a major milestone in moving forward with the relocation of Marines to Guam." [Read more](#)

LAW ENFORCEMENT MARINES CONFRONT BATTLEFIELD REALITY IN VIRTUAL WORLD

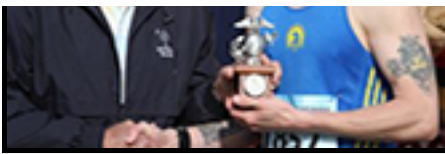


More than 15 Marines with 3rd Law Enforcement Battalion, III Marine Expeditionary Force, used a combat convoy simulator to execute convoy tactics and techniques April 15 at Camp Hansen, Okinawa, Japan. The law enforcement Marines complete this particular training at least four times a year to remain efficient in carrying out their duties. "If we deployed tomorrow, one of our big missions would be battlefield circulation, which is moving people around the battlefield," said Staff Sgt. Eric Ellenberger. "We're going to provide security for those logistic units to get needed gear where it has to be, safely." [Read more](#)

IMPOSTOR BANNED FROM MARINE CORPS MARATHON FOR MISIDENTIFYING HIMSELF



Gerardo Avila won the Marine Corps 17.75K pretending to be Steven Henry, and both men have been disqualified from October's Marine Corps Marathon because of it. Henry was identified by the Marine Corps Marathon as a retired infantry soldier and a five-time finisher of the marathon. Race officials believe that Henry gave his official



runner's bib to Avila, who participated under Henry's name, and misrepresented himself as Henry in post-race interviews. "Illegal transfers of bibs have significant ramifications including potentially altering age award results, but more significantly, should a bandit runner require medical attention during the event, medical

personnel would not have necessary information about the individual," said Rick Nealis, director of the Marine Corps Marathon. [Read more](#)



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

APRIL 22, 2004

While on patrol in Iraq, Marines with 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines were attacked and Cpl. Jason Lee Dunham deliberately covered an enemy grenade to save nearby Marines. He became the first Medal of Honor recipient since the Vietnam War for his heroic action.



MARINE OF THE WEEK

NAVY CROSS BESTOWED ON HEROIC MARINE



Gunnery Sgt. Richard Jibson received the nation's second highest valor award April 22 for bravery he exhibited during a five-hour firefight in Afghanistan. On May 28, 2012, Jibson, an infantry adviser with the Georgian Liason Team, was on duty when a group of



Marine explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) technicians disarming a bomb nearby came under enemy small-arms fire. Without hesitation, Jibson bounded towards the EOD techs, placing himself between them and the enemy until they could reach cover. As the enemy attack persisted, Jibson continued working to break the onslaught. His leadership, tactical expertise and calm under fire are

credited with allowing for the successful withdrawal of the 53-man Georgian force he advised and the evacuation of casualties "with minimal loss of life." [Read more](#)

OUR MISSION

*In the words of Lt. Gen. Victor H. "Brute" Krulak, "The United States does not need a Marine Corps... the United States wants a Marine Corps." As America's Expeditionary Force in Readiness, the Marine Corps is deployed across the globe, standing ready to respond to any crisis. The Marine Corps Connection is your one-stop source for the latest Marine Corps news and is published weekly by the Division of Public Affairs at Headquarters Marine Corps. **Stay connected to your Marines!***



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